



# A HUGE HUNGRY CROWD

Lesson 18

## BIG IDEA

Jesus had compassion for the hungry people. He fed them physically and spiritually. Jesus makes possible the impossible.

## KEY VERSES

John 6:3-14

## MEMORY VERSE

John 6:14

“After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, ‘Surely this is the Prophet who is come into the world.’”

## • PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

### BIBLE LESSON: INTERACTIVE

- Small bag
- Five small loaves of bread cut out of construction paper.
- Two small fish cut out of construction paper

### GAME

- Large basket, bucket or bowl
- Large spoons, one per team
- A couple bags of cotton balls
- Fish cut out of construction paper (at least two per child)

### CRAFT

- Experience Mission provides scissors, hole punch, stapler, staples, rulers
- Pencils, one or two per child
- Colored felt pieces
- Wiggly eyes
- Glue or glue dots
- Sharpie markers

### WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)
- Photocopies of Maze (domestic communities only)





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## BIBLE LESSON • INTERACTIVE

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Get 10-12 volunteers. Choose one to be a popular teacher who is walking around. Have the other children crowd around him wanting his attention. Let this play out long enough for the teacher to be uncomfortable with the pressing crowd. Thank the volunteers and let them sit down.

How did it feel to have so many people crowding around? Now imagine that this teacher was so popular that a huge crowd was constantly following him from town to town, wherever he went. This is how it was for Jesus. One day Jesus and his disciples were tired after preaching and teaching, so they got in a boat and went across a lake to find a quiet place to rest.

But the crowd wanted to be with Jesus so bad, to hear his teaching and to be healed, that they ran around the lake and there was an even bigger crowd waiting for Jesus when he reached the other side. Jesus had compassion for the people and began to teach them many good lessons.

The disciples were worried, they noticed that it was getting late, they were tired and it was dinner time. So they told Jesus to send the people away to the surrounding towns to eat a meal. Jesus decided to teach the disciples an important lesson so he said, "You feed them."

The disciples were shocked because there were over 5000 men, plus women and children, about 13,000 people total. "That would take more money than a person earns in half a year! Do you really want us to spend that much money?"

"How many loaves of bread do you have?" Jesus asked.

The disciples found a little boy who had some food, "We found five loaves of bread and two fish. But that's not nearly enough to feed so many." The situation looked completely impossible.

Find 4 volunteers to play Jesus, two disciples and a boy. Give the boy the small bag with the paper loaves and fish. The rest of the kids will stay where they are and play the hungry crowd. Ask the 4 volunteers to act out the following prompts without using words.

- Jesus is teaching the crowd (pretend to be lecturing)
- The two disciples are noticing how late it is (check the time)
- The crowd is hungry (rub bellies)
- The disciples want Jesus to send the people home (wave them away)
- Jesus wants the disciples to feed them (make an eating motion and point to the crowd)
- Disciples shocked (look shocked and count all the people in the crowd)
- Disciples present the boy with the loaves and fish to Jesus showing how impossible it is to feed everyone with a tiny bit of food
- Jesus confidently takes the loaves and fish and prays (make praying motion)
- End of skit

After Jesus prayed and gave thanks for the food he had the crowd sit in groups of 50 and 100 on the grass. Then he multiplied the food for his disciples to pass out to all the people, all 13,000 of them. Jesus made possible the impossible.

In fact, there was so much food that everyone was able to eat until they were full. Then Jesus asked his disciples to gather up the leftovers food. So they walked around the crowd and



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## BIBLE LESSON • INTERACTIVE (CONT.)

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picked up all the extra food and ended up filling 12 baskets!

Jesus taught the crowd and his disciples some important lessons that day. He showed them what love and compassion look like by giving even more of his time and energy to the masses of people that were following him. He did not get impatient or angry.

Jesus also showed them that things that seem impossible to man are not impossible for God. The disciples were right that five loaves and two fish couldn't feed the crowd, but they were wrong to doubt Jesus.

Jesus reminded the disciples the importance of giving thanks for what we have, even when it doesn't seem like enough.

When the crowd saw the miracle that Jesus performed and they ate the bread and fish, they began to say to each other, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." And they were ready to make him be their king.

Reproducible curriculum produced and written by Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa. Adapted visually and/or translated for use on short term mission trips by Experience Mission.

### SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- *Have mission team members do the acting parts instead of the kids.*
- *Tell the account of Jesus feeding the crowd as a simple story or read it from a children's bible.*



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## CRAFT & GAME

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### • CRAFT •

#### OBJECTIVE: PEN TOPPERS

Decorate a highlighter pen and use it to mark your memory verses.

#### DIRECTIONS

- Distribute one pencil per child
- Lay out decorations and show examples
- Let the kids be creative in making their own pencil toppers

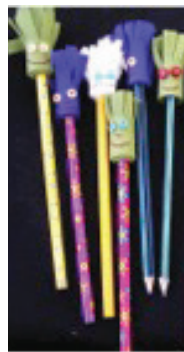
#### MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, rulers, hole punches

#### MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- EM provides scissors, hole punch, stapler, staples
- Pencils, one or two per child
- Colored felt pieces
- Wiggly eyes
- Glue or glue dots
- Sharpie markers

#### EXAMPLES



#### SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- Pre-cut heart, flower and butterfly shapes.
- Pre-cut 1 x 2 inch strips of felt and make 1/2 inch snips all the way up one side (for the smiley face toppers)

### • GAME •

#### OBJECTIVE: FEED THE CROWD RELAY

Race to feed your team with bread and fish.

#### MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

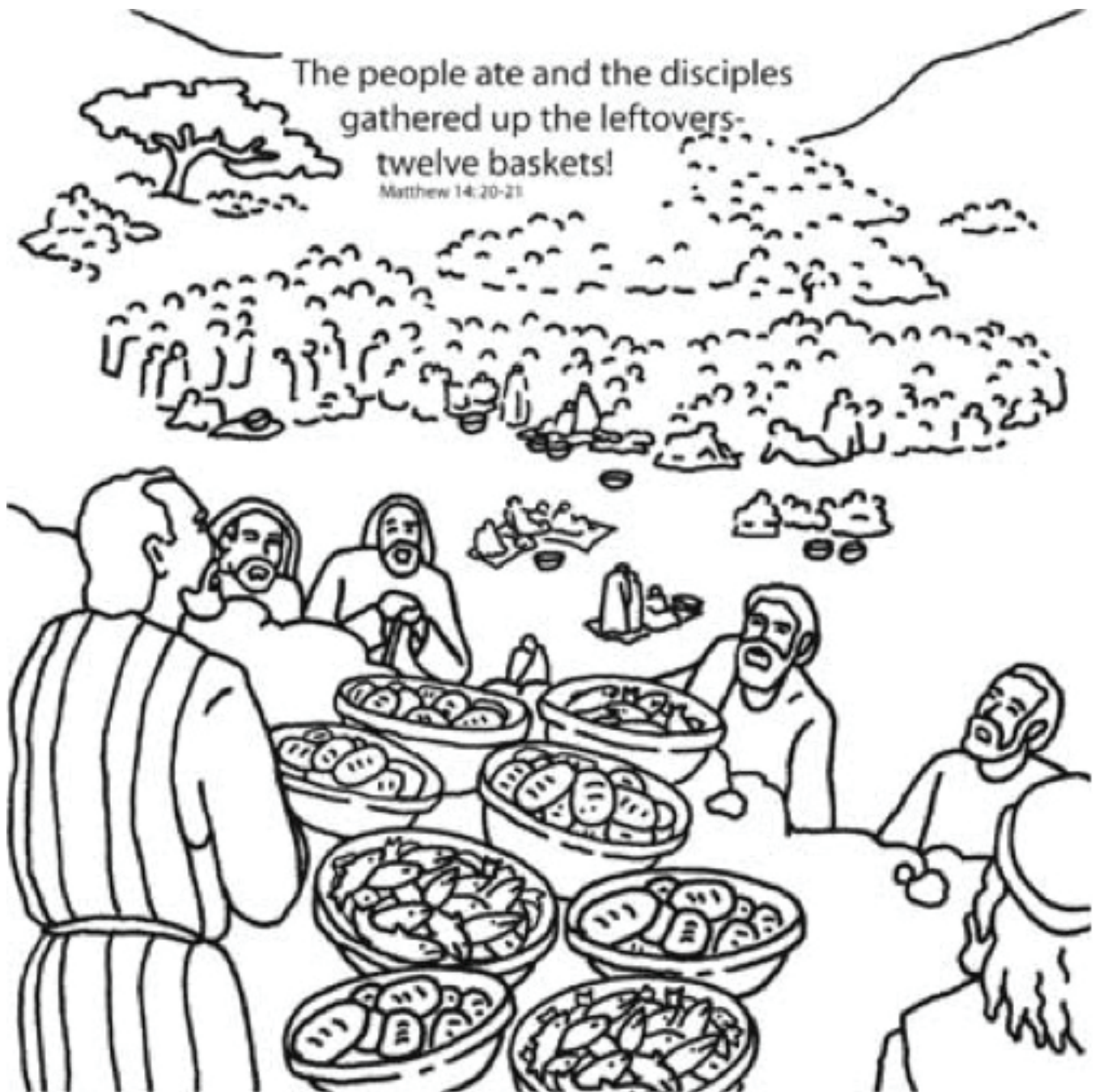
- Large basket, bucket or bowl
- Large spoons, one per team
- A couple bags of cotton balls
- Fish cut out of construction paper (at least two per child)

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Divide the kids into groups of 10.
- Place basket in the middle of the play area.
- Fill the basket with cotton balls and fish, mix around.
- Give each team a spoon.
- Choose one person from each team to be the first runner.  
The runner picks up loaves and fish (cotton and fish) with the spoon and distributes to his team.
- Runner sits down and a new person runs.
- First team to have two loaves and two fish per person wins.

#### SIMPLIFIED GAME OPTIONS

Run the relay as a simple relay between two teams. Each player runs to the basket, scoops up bread and fish, returns to team. Next player goes. First team to have all their bread and fish wins.





# FEEDING THE 5000

Help Jesus and the disciples find the way to the crowd.

